

JOHN CAMPBELL, upon the birth of their beautiful daughter. Valentina Lucille Day arrived into the world at 7:12 p.m. on Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2013, at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC. Weighing 6 pounds and measuring 19 inches long, Valentina is the first child for the happy couple. I look forward to watching her grow and have no doubt that her talented parents will be dedicated to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Valentina's grandparents, Wallace and Miriam Lewis of Miami, Florida, and Edward and Margaret Day of Conklin, New York. Congratulations to the entire Day and Lewis families as they welcome their newest edition of pure pride and joy!

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**MOURNING THE PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN VICENTE "BEN" GARRIDO BLAZ**

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**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I learned today of the passing of former Congressman Vicente 'Ben' Garrido Blaz. Elected to the U.S. Congress in 1984 to represent the Territory of Guam, Congressman Blaz was an exceptional leader for his people. He was also an example of statesmanship to the greater Pacific region, including American Samoa. He will truly be missed.

As a genuine patriot, Blaz first served his country as a Marine and served three tours in Osaka, Okinawa, and Vietnam. He was the first general officer from Guam to serve in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. In 1977, he became the first Chamorro ever to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

Congressman Blaz served Guam for eight years in the U.S. Congress from 1985–1993 (99th Congress–102nd Congress). As a freshman member and respected leader among his peers, he was also elected as President of his freshman class. I will remember him also as a dear friend who welcomed me as a fellow islander and brother after I was elected to serve American Samoa in 1988.

Congressman Blaz will be remembered for his dedicated service and pioneering spirit. He will also be remembered as a family man: a loving husband to his late wife, Ann Evers Blaz, a devoted father and grandfather. I count myself as one of many who was blessed to share a friendship with this great man and I will hold close to my heart his example of leadership, passion for his Chamorro culture, and immense love for his people.

The people of American Samoa join together to honor our Chamorro brother. We give our deepest condolences to his family, especially his sons, Mike and Tom, and their families, and to the people of Guam as they mourn his passing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

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**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a great man who represented Indianapolis in Congress for twenty years. After a life of dedicated service to his city and country, former Congressman Andrew Jacobs, Jr. passed away on December 28, 2013.

I was privileged to know Congressman Jacobs from a very young age and considered him family. He served as an invaluable mentor and dear friend to my grandmother, Julia Carson, who he hired to work in his Indianapolis congressional office in 1965. It was Andy's faith and encouragement that inspired my grandmother to run for state representative in 1972, and his support of her never wavered.

At an early age, Andy took an interest in me as well and imparted wisdom while serving as a role model. He continued as a valued mentor, even long after he left office. With Andy's passing, our nation lost a man who was resolutely courageous, both in his service as a Marine in Korea, and in public life.

People will likely recall that he helped strengthen Social Security, fought for civil rights, and was unrelentingly frugal with taxpayer dollars. But his true legacy is that of a man who took the path less traveled, one of principle, no matter what advantages he sacrificed to do so.

While in Congress, Andy never took a donation from a political action committee, he never attacked an opponent, and he never put his name on his office door in Washington, D.C., explaining that "the seat belonged to the people I serve, not to me." He was a selfless public servant, who never cared about station or the trappings of office.

Andy was a man of rapier wit. And though he used it often to hilarious effect in disarming the infrequent angry constituent or political foe, he was never caustic or maligning. He upheld the dignity of all. This is undoubtedly why he forged enduring friendships with, and held the respect of, many across the aisle.

For some time now, Andy has penned a weekly "Thought Bite" for Nuvo, a local Indianapolis newspaper. On December 18, it read: "If there's one thing I hate, it's hate." I cannot think of a better self-assessment for a man whose heart had unlimited capacity to see the goodness in everyone.

In sum, Andy was a model of decency, compassion, servant-leadership, thoughtfulness, and civility. I pray that God rests his soul and gives peace and comfort to his wife, Kim, his sons Andy and Steven, and to the countless others for whom Andy is "family."

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**RECOGNIZING JOE COTCHETT**

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**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary man, and a true humani-

tarian, who is celebrating his 75th birthday and his 50th anniversary practicing law in pursuit of justice for all Americans. Joe Cotchett is a Burlingame attorney known for his intellectual honesty, his booming declaration of indignation over the lack of justice for his clients, and an enormous heart that pumps love out to all, especially those in urgent need.

A few examples of his work over the years demonstrate his dedication to the rule of law. This chamber may never have heard of Joe Cotchett, but many have heard of Charles Keating, the former CEO of Lincoln Savings and Loan. Joe pursued Keating through the years until senior citizens who were bilked had received some measure of recompense. He took the case when others considered it a hopeless cause. Not to Joe. Justice is never hopeless in the law offices of Joe Cotchett.

In fact, white collar criminals know the name of Joe Cotchett well, as he pursued them in the interests of swindled investors in companies such as Technical Equities. When banks and securities firms sold Enron's bonds and assured investors that the bonds were sound, they defrauded buyers. Joe Cotchett held the sellers accountable. More recently, the County of San Mateo is likely to receive tens of millions of dollars through a suit filed against Lehman Brothers and the personal assets of its former CEO, Richard Fuld. Public agencies and the human needs that they serve will recover from wrongdoers, thanks to Joe Cotchett.

In the eyes of many in modern day America, civil justice is a rich man's right and a stale leftover due any poor man with the temerity to plead at the doors of a courtroom. In the eyes of Joe Cotchett, justice is an everyday pursuit on behalf of any American who has been wronged and who deserves redress.

Mr. Speaker, there are probably many persons who are alive today who unknowingly owe their economic well-being and peace of mind to Joe Cotchett. In 2000, Consumers Union was hit with a product disparagement and defamation suit. An automaker claimed that Consumers Union had hurt its reputation. Indeed, when the magazine pointed out that vehicles made by the company were prone to rollovers, sales fell. Joe Cotchett successfully defended Consumers Union and the right of investigative, consumer-oriented journalism to spell out the truth to buyers. Lives then and now are saved because this lawsuit and another in 2004 were not successful. The truth about dangerous products will continue to be published.

Most recently, he recovered \$1.5 billion for California counties which had sued lead paint manufacturers for the damage done to children by lead-tainted products. The settlement will go towards removing lead from the homes of low income children throughout California.

He once defended the justices of the California Supreme Court who were sued by various Wall Street interests. Wall Street was a bit unhappy with the court's rules regarding arbitration. The Wall Streeters were unsuccessful, thanks to Joe, and now it is demonstrable that there is justice even for justices but, most importantly, for the public interest that these justices serve.

Joe's work is not merely on behalf of those who can pay. Amerasian children in the Philippines were left in villages after Subic Bay Naval Base closed. Joe mounted a suit on their behalf that resulted in a settlement giving

direct U.S. aid to the children fathered by U.S. servicemembers. Locally, Joe and his law firm are routinely at the top of the list of donors to nonprofits helping the disabled, mentally ill, homeless and many others. It would be difficult to overstate the generosity of Joe towards his many communities, including \$5 million to create an endowment at California State Polytechnic University to promote the teaching of mathematics and science. Joe Cotchett has been "paying it forward" for decades, all with the knowledge that the meaningful legacies of any man's life are not memorialized in stone but rather demonstrated by the conscientious, continuous replacement of despair and anguish with hope and well-being.

Of course, over 50 years of practice it would be expected that an accomplished advocate would receive many honors and serve in many positions. Joe's honors and places of service are so numerous that they defy enumeration. Let me name just a few: Service on the board of the San Mateo County Heart Association, the San Mateo Boys and Girls Club, the Peninsula Association of Retarded Children and Adults, the Bay Meadows Foundation, Disability Rights Advocates, Public Citizen, and Earth Justice. He has lectured at the law schools of Harvard, Stanford, the University of Southern California, Georgetown, and U.C. Hastings College of the Law. Among his many honors have been those bestowed by the Anti-Defamation League, trial lawyer associations both state and national, and the State Bar of California. He has been published seven times and is a member of eight professional organizations, including the State Bar of California, and the bar associations of New York and the District of Columbia. He is also admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Joe Cotchett received his B.S. in Engineering from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in June 1960, being named an outstanding graduate, and his J.D. from Hastings College of the Law at the University of California in June 1964. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Cal Poly and Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Notre Dame de Namur University and the University of San Francisco. He is the author of "The Ethics Gap", "California Continuing Education of the Bar" and many others. His honors include being named Top 100 Lawyers in California by California Daily Journal in 2011 and the Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America list for 2011.

Do you see the theme here, my fellow members? Starving children. Children being poisoned by lead. Trusting consumers. The Earth in all her glory? Investors who legitimately trusted in free and fair markets? These are the clients of an honest, thoughtful advocate. An honest man is sometimes described as being made of the salt of the Earth. In fact, Joe is a bit salty. He can sometimes be crusty. But he is definitely of this Earth. Joe Cotchett deserves a happy 75th birthday and a warm round of applause for 50 years of service in the interest of justice. America is always strengthened by citizen advocates who see the public's interest and who defend it unstintingly. This nation should hope that there

are many more years in the life and service of Joseph W. Cotchett, an historic defender of American democracy.

#### HONORING DAN BILBREY

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of Mr. Dan Bilbrey, a Vietnam War veteran who served in the Air Force and an outstanding leader in the community of Tracy, California.

Dan Bilbrey moved to Tracy, California in 1968 where he eventually served as the Mayor for 12 years, from 1994 to 2006 after a term on the City Council from 1990 to 1994.

At age 68, Mr. Bilbrey died in his home in the early morning on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, after suffering an illness for 7 months.

As mayor, Mr. Bilbrey played critical roles in many key community projects including: the Tracy Outlets, the West Valley Mall, construction of the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, the Civic Center, renovation of the fire administration building at Ninth Street and Central Avenue, completion of the South County Water Surface Project, and establishment of a city parks system.

The city of Tracy honored Mr. Bilbrey's long career of service to the community on February 5th by dedicating the plaza at City Hall, 333 Civic Center Drive, in his name.

Dan was a man of strong faith and conviction. He was a loyal, patient man that his family and community have always been proud and blessed to have in their lives. He was of the highest integrity, a man of wisdom and courage, strength and honor, who respected, and was respected by all. He was always there to help, whether it was a boy scout, a teenager, or any other individual.

Mr. Bilbrey gave 100% into all projects; big or small, they were all of equal importance. He was a man of many hats: Mayor, Councilman, Foundation Director, reserve policeman, medic, husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, and recently a great grandfather. He was born to Quitman and Lena Bilbrey and had one sibling, Ann Lamb; all have now passed. He has two children, John and Jennifer, three grandchildren, Savannah, Toli Jr. and Rylee, and one great granddaughter, Danni, who was named after him. His sister, Ann, married Spencer Lamb; they have three children, Terry, Sherry, and Elizabeth, who were very close to him. There are many great nieces and nephews, all of whom Dan's love and life touched.

When Dan had free time, he enjoyed spending it in his garden with his, "sweetie," Josie and his Boston Terrier. They made many trips to Oregon to visit grandchildren. They have also visited Europe, specifically: Portugal, Ireland, and England. Dan took after-Christmas trips to Hawaii with close friends to bring in the New Year. He took several cruises to the Panama Canal, Central America and Alaska.

Dan made friends everywhere he went and influenced many with his wisdom and kindness. He will be greatly missed by all. His contributions to our lives and community will always be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dan Bilbrey for his life and great contributions to his family, community and country.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,306,977,954,400.15. We've added \$6,680,100,905,487.07 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. GERALD L. BECK

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gerald L. Beck for more than 38 years of service to educating Idahoans and on the occasion of his retirement from his current position as President of the College of Southern Idaho (CSI).

During his time at CSI, Dr. Beck has been a strong advocate for promoting academic excellence in Southeastern Idaho as well as supporting economic development in the local community. Through Dr. Beck's work prior to joining CSI—which included starting a small business and working two regional managerial positions—Dr. Beck gained the experience necessary to begin a long and successful career educating those who now contribute to the economic development of Idaho.

Perhaps the most meaningful impact Dr. Beck has made is his role as an educator and administrator. Dr. Beck started his career at CSI as a technical instructor and went on to hold positions as the Coordinator of the Trade and Industrial Division, the Dean of Continuing Education/Summer School, and the Executive Vice President/Chief Academic Officer. In his time at CSI Dr. Beck was able to integrate the higher education curriculum to support economic growth in southeast Idaho which created a mutually successful relationship between the college and local community.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank Dr. Beck for his service and commitment to higher education in Idaho. I wish him well in the next chapter of his life alongside his wife Barbara, children, and grandchildren.